

BANK OF YAZOO CITY WORTH OVER THREE MILLION DOLLARS

Not Just Another
Paper—But A
Better Paper

The Century Voice

With Justice To All
And
Malice Toward None

NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE DOCTRINE OF UNIVERSAL DEMOCRACY

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NO. 1

CENTURY VOICE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

AFRO-AMERICAN SONS AND DAUGHTERS CLOSES SUCCESSFUL MEETING

POPULAR SHOE STORE HEAD CONGRATULATES THE CENTURY VOICE

Great oaks from little acorns grow: a saying that shall never lose its merit regardless to how often used. Anniversaries—whether wedding, church, birth or business enterprise, all have their small beginnings. We can hardly name anything that started great—if we can, nine times out of ten, that thing ended small, a case of starting at the big end of the horn and coming out at the little end.

The Century Voice started at the little end and the progress made has encouraged its originator and builded a faith that shall doubtless lead The Voice to the place of one of the largest, if not the largest, news publications of Negro America.

The Backbone of a Nation

All life is dependent upon food. When methods and means of food are cut off, life ceases. Food is the first requisite or victory, therefore America must push all food programs from the farm to the home and battle fronts. There is a great drain on America's food supply because not only must the men and women in Defense Plants, the boys in the Service uniform all over the country, civilians in regular life, be fed, but the allied nations. There is no abundance, no supply so great as cannot be exhausted when there is a constant drain on it, unless some one is at work to keep production going.

The food problem does not rest entirely upon the farmer or producer, but it rests upon everybody—the consumer as well. We cannot afford to waste and be extravagant in these days. The bread crusts and bread ends that many homes thought nothing of, are today of vital importance. A hungry man cannot be at his best and America wants to be at its best in every way.

Food is the very backbone of a nation. We know what happens when backbone gives way. I believe physicians will verify the fact that a man's strength is in his back, no other ailment of the body can so completely stop action as a backache, so it is the duty of every person to see that America does not suffer a backache from the lack of food.

Layman's Individual Efforts Soars To \$1,100.00

A man cannot tell the limit of his own ability until some condition or opportunity arises to test it out. Mr. T. J. Huddleston, affectionately referred to all over the state as "Cousin Tom," seemed to have stretched the full length of his ability when he brought up over Eleven Hundred Dollars at the Baptist State Convention. Mr. Huddleston, a staunch and loyal Christian worker for a number of years, was head of the laymen's movement in the Convention and was asked to bring up \$500.00—a good sized job for any man; he accepted the charge and to the astonishment of the whole Convention, he reported more than twice the amount. This effort was just another demonstration of how much the people think of him and how they appreciate the openings he has made possible for them, for many of these dollars came in answer to letters sent over the country to men and women who are employed by him—Century Burial Agents, Afro Financial Secretaries, Farm Laborers and Office employees—all cheerfully contributed when he called. Respect for the service Mr. Huddleston is rendering was not only shown by the cooperation of his own people but by the white as well because many of them gave liberally.

The Convention gave loud applause to Mr. Huddleston for the splendid work he did and we feel Christ gave him the same commendation as He did the men who doubled the Talents He gave them.

Memories of the Convention will last a long time. Two notes on Natchez College were met and it is hoped that the next session will go far beyond this mark.

Has Excellent Financial Statement

All Yazoo City citizens and patrons of the Bank of Yazoo City are interested in its financial condition. We have been fortunate to have the privilege of publishing the statement of this reliable and dependable banking institution, the statement showing over Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) worth of business, is found in this issue of our paper. We are happy to render our readers this service. While you are enjoying a measure of prosperity and receiving government checks from relatives in the U. S. Service, we urge you to open a bank account or increase the one you have.

Complimentary Letter

Yazoo City, Miss.,
August 18, 1943

T. J. Huddleston, Jr.,
Editor,
Century Voice,
Yazoo City, Miss.
Dear T. J.:

Whether a man will succeed or fail is due largely to how well he counts the cost of adventure. Judging from the time you put out the first issue of your paper and the service you have rendered through it, I think you know the way that leads to success.

Frankly, I am pleasantly surprised with the excellency of each issue of The Century Voice and I take this opportunity to congratulate you, especially through this, your anniversary issue.

I have noted that you have been liberal in sharing space for various movements of vital importance to the Nation and to your local citizenry as well. I think you should secure the loyal support of all your group in helping make this one of the leading papers of your group.

Yours very truly,
INGRAM'S SHOE STORE,
by O. C. Ingram.

Noted Editor To Be Honored

The maritime Commission announced today that a Liberty Ship, assigned to a South Portland, Me., shipyard, will be named for the late Robert L. Vann, noted Negro lawyer, and founder and editor of The Pittsburgh Courier, a weekly newspaper.

The ship, fifth in a series named for outstanding Negro Americans, will be launched in late September or early in October in the South Portland yards of the New England Shipbuilding Corporation.

The first three ships of this series, the SS Booker T. Washington, the SS George Washington Carver, and the SS Frederick Douglass, are now in active service, two of them with Negro captains with mixed crews. The fourth, the SS John Merriek, was recently launched at Wilmington, N.C.A. warship, the Destroyer Escort Leonard Roy Harmon, was launched last month by the Navy Department at Quincy, Mass.

Robert Lee Vann was born at Ahsokie, N. C., August 27, 1879, and died in Pittsburgh, Pa., October 24, 1940. Educated at the Virginia Union University and the University of Pittsburgh, he was admitted to the bar in 1909 and practiced in Pennsylvania until 1936, when he decided to give his full time to his publishing business.

He was one of the founders and incorporators of The Pittsburgh Courier Publishing Company in March, 1910, and served as editor of the paper and president and treasurer of the publishing company until his death.

Under Mr. Vann's direction, the Courier became one of the largest Negro newspapers in the world with an ABC circulation of over 200,000 and readers in most English-speaking countries.

Mr. Vann also enjoyed a distinguished career as a lawyer. In 1917-18, he served as assistant City Solicitor for Pittsburgh. In 1924, he was named by President Coolidge as a member of a five-man commission to investigate conditions in the Virgin Islands. In 1935, he served as a member of the Constitutional Convention of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to revise the state constitution.

Mr. Vann was also an ardent disciple of education, and aided many young people of his race to gain collegiate training. He also made several large contributions to Virginia Union University, where, after his death, the tower of the Belgian Pavilion of the New York World's Fair was renamed to Robert L. Vann Memorial Tower. This Pavilion was presented to Virginia Union by the Belgian Government and transported from New York to Richmond, Va.

Corrections

In our July Issue we stated that Mr. and Mrs. William Luse, Jr., were visiting here instead its was S/Sgt. George C. Luse and wife.

The name of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. James Paige is Carl Edwards instead of Carol Edwards as stated in our July issue.

Baptists Raised Over \$33,000.00

The General Baptist State Convention which held its annual meeting in Greenwood, Mississippi set its mark at \$30,000.00, but when all reports were made, this loyal Christian group was \$3,000.00 over its mark. It seems new spirit has come into the Association; a spirit to shoulder every responsibility like good soldiers of the cross. At one time it seemed that the Association was struggling under a burden too heavy for them to carry, but there is a different view now. The leading men of the Association have set themselves to the task of clearing all indebtedness on their church school, Natchez College, and they are receiving the support and cooperation of the Baptists all over the state. There is nothing more beautiful than to see a group of church people working together in harmony to foster the cause of Christ.

Ignorance is a hindrance to Christianity and the more effort put forth on the part of the church to stamp it out, the sooner the work of building a Christian world can be accomplished. People serve God according to their ability to understand. If we desire to see Christianity at its best then its our duty to do our part in helping keep the doors of our institution of learning open.

One Thousand Dollars Donated

Mr. George Stutts, Yazoo County wealthy oil man, donated to the Convention \$1,000.00. Many people have said what they would do if fortune favored them or if certain honors were bestowed upon them, but few have kept their promises when the reality came. We do not know whether Mr. Stutts ever made an expression of what he would do, if he were rich, but it is gratifying to know that he is not a hoarder, that he is not selfish, that he has not forgotten the source of his wealth. Although this benefactor is a part of the Baptist State Convention, he is not narrow minded enough to limit his contributions to Baptists only, whenever he is called upon to help in a worthy cause, he does so cheerfully. It happened that during this session of the Convention, Mr. Clark, director of a blind school, brought a group of blind students to the Convention and made an appeal for help. Again Mr. Stutts, in a big hearted way, answered this needy cause with his check for \$200. We believe God's blessings have never fallen in a more fertile heart than that of Mr. Stutts. He is conscious of what God has done for him and finds joy in giving and sharing in worthy and needy causes.

Agents Wanted

The Century Voice, fast growing newspaper, can use your spare time. If you desire to work as an agent to write subscriptions and sell papers, contact: T. J. Huddleston, Jr., Editor, Box 495, Yazoo City, Mississippi. Liberal commission paid.

IN THE BULLETIN

WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR:

The Highest Reporting Agents For The Month

DISTRICT MEETING DATES

TOTAL NUMBER OF CENTURY DEATHS

AGENT WHO WRITES THE LARGEST NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH

AGENT WHO MAKES THE HIGHEST INCREASE IN REMITTANCE DURING THE MONTH

LEADING DISTRICT MEETING REPORTS

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The 18th Supreme Lodge of the Afro-American Sons and Daughters recently closed at Greenwood, Mississippi. Like most other annual sessions held this year, the meeting was a success from all angles. The attendance was excellent and the usual high spirit was held throughout the session.

The opening day, Wednesday, August 11, 1943, found all officers present and ready to take their respective places. The program of the day followed its usual course with the meeting and report of board members annual messages from the Custodian and President and memorial of the deceased members. Mr. D. W. Lindsey, Yazoo County Agent, addressed the lodge on the subject "Our Dead." The address was well planned and masterfully delivered. A delightful local program was given at the evening session.

Thursday, the second day, on which everybody looks forward to as being the high day of the meeting was characterized by many interesting and beneficial remarks from Veteran Afro workers. The annual address was delivered by S. Sgt. Clister L. Johnson. Mr. Johnson had many years experience in the work of the Afros before his call to Service for the U. S., and this experience plus that he had gained in Service, made him able to entertain his congregation in a most timely manner. The evening session was highly entertaining. The various contestants demonstrated study through research work and ability. Many prizes were awarded to winners, ranging from \$2.50 up.

The Friday morning session brought to a close this 18th Annual setting of the organization. Custodian Huddleston was in place to pass out the last course of the Grand Lodge feast. He had been at his best from the beginning of the meeting and there was no let-up when the last day came. One of the remarkable characteristics of Mr. Huddleston as a leader, is the fact that his popularity with the people increases with the years. This is contrary to the general rule of leaders. In most instances, a leader is popular just for a few years, but seldom over a period of 18 years as in the leadership of this tried and tested leader of men. People still hear him gladly, they still follow him loyally and the still testify to his greatness. May it be that each year will bring him a brighter joy from the fruits of his labor.

After the Custodian made his report, it was found that the following lodges reported over \$1,000.00 during the Grand Lodge year:

Jackson, Mississippi	\$3,655.02
Greenville, Mississippi	2,721.45
Hattiesburg, Mississippi	2,350.83
Greenville, Mississippi, No. 35	2,287.63
Pickens, Mississippi, No. 355	1,714.19
Greenwood, Mississippi	1,625.92
Yazoo City, Mississippi, No. 469	1,528.21
Jackson, Mississippi, No. 1401	1,272.51
Progressive Lodge (Effie Jordan, F. S.)	1,020.94
Inverness, Mississippi, No. 53	1,018.51

Since the Hattiesburg Lodge No. 212 of which Mrs. M. M. Mott is Financial Secretary came so close to the one thousand dollar mark, we are publishing the amount sent for the Grand Lodge, which was \$935.19.

Telegrams

As a demonstration of goodwill and respect for the place the Afro-American Sons and Daughters is filling in the State of Mississippi and for its founder, T. J. Huddleston, telegrams from various business concerns of Yazoo City showered the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge and its Founder and Custodian, T. J. Huddleston, are grateful and deeply appreciate these expressions.

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church Leads In Convention

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church of Yazoo City led the churches of the state in the Baptist State Convention which was held at Greenwood, Mississippi. This church represented with \$258.00. The money goes for educational purposes and Mr. T. J. Huddleston, Jr., has been the energetic sponsor of the Educational Drives in this church for a number of years. For several years the church has stood at the top and this honor has been largely due to the untiring efforts of young Huddleston. The church is proud of its record and proud of the work this young man has done over the years.

If you have news of interest about your churches, your communities, etc., let us have it—some one else will enjoy knowing about you.